

MHDS COMMISSION
June 17, 2021
9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Zoom – Approved 8/19/2021

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsy Akin	Representative Lindsay James
Diane Brecht	Timothy Perkins
Representative Dennis Bush	Lorrie Young
Teresa Daubitz	Russell Wood
Janee Harvey	

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sen. Jeff Edler	Cory Turner
Shari O'Bannon	Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott
Maria Sorensen	Rich Whitaker

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Theresa Armstrong	Andrienne LaToure
Kris Bell	Geoffrey Lauer
Emily Berry	Melissa Loehr
Teresa Bomhoff	Stacie Maass
Liz Cox	Carrie Malone
Wendy DePhillips	Jack Mescher
Shelley Dirth	Lin Nibbelink
Natalie Ginty	Bill Ocker
Emma Hall	John Parmeter
John Hedgecoth	Rachel Phipps
Sandi Hurtado-Peters	Ethan Price
Bill Kallestad	Libby Reekers
Don Kass	Flora Schmidt
June Klein-Bacon	Susan Seehase
Annie Koch	Gano Whetstone
Todd Lange	

Materials Referenced:

May 19, 2021 Joint MHDS Commission and MHPC Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2021 MHDS Commission Meeting Minutes
MHDS Rules Cash Flow in the Event a County Leaves a Region
21-017 Revised Rules Schedule
Evidence Based Practice of Individual Placement and Support and ASPIRE Presentation
Making the Case for IPS Supported Employment
MHDS Commission Cost Increase Letter 8.6.20 FINAL
Commission Planning Table 2021

Welcome and Introductions

Lorrie Young called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and led introductions. Quorum was established with six members present virtually. Lorrie asked Commission members to let the Commission know of any conflicts when voting.

Review and Vote on Approval of May 19, 2021 Joint Meeting Minutes

Diane Brecht motioned to approve the May 19, 2021 joint meeting minutes. Betsy Akin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Review and Vote on May 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Theresa Daubitz motioned to approve the May 20, 2021 meeting minutes. Diane Brecht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Consider Notice of Administrative Rules regarding IAC 441 Chapter 25, “Disability Services Management”

Theresa Armstrong presented the rule package on IAC 441 Chapter 25.14 related to Regional Governance Agreements for approval of the rules for public notice. Tim Perkins motioned to approve the rules for notice. Diane Brecht seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion to approve the rule package for notice was approved unanimously.

MHDS Update

Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)/Department of Human Services Alignment (DHS)

There is a new website for the IDPH/DHS alignment <https://hhsalignment.iowa.gov/>. This will be how IDPH, DHS and the consulting group will be communicating what is happening with the alignment.

Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) Dollars

DHS has received approval on the plan submitted for an additional \$6.48M from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act. DHS will have 18 months to spend the funds. These funds have the same set-asides as the Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG), which includes 10% for First Episode Psychosis programs, and 5% for crisis services and programs. The plan submitted included funds for peer-run services, technical assistance for DHS to implement Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC), collaboration with IDPH, expanding children’s Systems of Care programs, studying gaps for adults and children and supporting those gaps, additional dollars to the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program, Centers of Excellence to support the development, sustainability, and fidelity of evidence-based programs for adults and children with mental illness, and additional dollars to support COVID Recovery Iowa. DHS has received a no-cost FEMA extension for the disaster grant, but are currently waiting on congressional approval on a cost extension of the FEMA grant. DHS has received the notice of award from SAMHSA for funds related to the American Rescue Plan Act. DHS has been awarded \$11.2M, and will have four years (September 2021 to September 2025) to spend these funds. DHS must submit a plan to SAMHSA by August 2, 2021 on how funds will be spent. These funds have the same set-asides as the MHBG as well. DHS is currently looking at what is being funded using the \$6.48M, and focusing on sustaining those programs longer, as well as looking at how to support children’s services, specifically workforce challenges.

DHS Return to Work

DHS staff will be returning to work at the Hoover Building on July 1, 2021. The majority of staff will be utilizing a hybrid approach and splitting time between working at home and the office.

Supported Employment as an Evidence-Based Practice

Lin Nibbelink, DHS-MHDS, Rachel Phipps, Hope Haven, Inc. and Ethan Price, Plains Area Mental Health Center provided a PowerPoint presentation on supported employment as an evidenced-based practice, the Individual Placement Support initiative, and the Advancing State Policy Integration for Recovery and Employment (ASPIRE) grant.

There was discussion regarding the statistics around the success of the IPS program, best partnerships for this program, the organizational structure, and the referral process for the program. There were conversations that included a more fulsome explanation of what IPS is, the challenges with and the importance of establishing relationships, and engaging in conversations with employers as well as concerns regarding disclosure. There was additional discussion regarding rapid engagement, the distinction between conventional supported employment and IPS, and recent Habilitation rules changes regarding supported employment and IPS.

Lorrie Young opened up discussion to comments or questions from the public regarding the presentation. No public comment was given.

MHDS Legislative Update

House Human Services (HHS) Appropriations Bill

The bill was signed June 16, 2021, and established rate increases related to Medicaid for Habilitation, Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), and Psychiatric Medical Institutes for Children (PMICs).

SF524

Directs DHS to establish an interim study committee on inpatient bed tracking system. The study committee will include DHS, IDPH, Iowa Hospital Association, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), law enforcement, county mental health advocate, Regions, and private payer of psychiatric hospital services. The interim study committee is charged with looking at the current inpatient bed tracking system, and how it might be expanded to include acuity of individuals as well as looking at a real-time bed tracking system, and rates for hospitals who serve individuals with a higher acuity level. The study committee must submit a report on their findings by December 15, 2021.

SF619

Omnibus bill which includes a portion on funding mental health and disability services (MHDS) regional service system. The bill creates a standing fund appropriation, and eliminates the current county tax levy and replaces it with general state funding. This change will occur over two years. DHS will be administering these funds to the MHDS Regions on a quarterly basis starting July 2021. The law also establishes an incentive fund. This fund will be used for regions below their allowed fund balance, and not able to meet their required core service needs. There are requirements that the region must meet in order to apply for these funds. DHS does have emergency rule authority regarding the incentive fund. DHS will be entering into performance-based contracts with the regions, which need to be in effect starting January 1, 2022. The

legislation also directed DHS to form a MHDS Regions Study Committee to look at how the MHDS system developing under SF619, and the changes that have occurred. The report from this study committee is due to the legislature and Governor by December 15, 2022.

The bill also provides an allowance for Broadlawns to transfer funding to Polk County MHDS Region and in-kind services for the next three fiscal years as well parity for telehealth.

Discussion on Cost Increase Letter

Commission members reviewed the 2020 Cost Increase Letter submitted last year to Director Garcia noting that this year's letter must be approved by the MHDS Commission, and is due to the Director by August 1, 2021.

There were discussions regarding the changes and recommendations for the cost increase letter for 2021 including competitive wages, provider rate fee schedules and Medicaid rates, increasing the maximum allowable fund balance, fully funding the standing appropriations and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics. A final draft of the letter will be presented to the MHDS Commission for approval at the July 15, 2021 meeting.

Review Commission Planning Table and Administrative Rules Committee Update

Commission members reviewed the Commission Planning Table noting the statutory duties. It was determined that the Legislative Priorities Committee will be a regular agenda item at the MHDS Commission meeting. It was noted that these discussions will need to start in July, and will require members to review previous years reports, and consider priorities before the July meeting to facilitate conversation. Loan repayment programs were brought up as possible recommendation.

The Administrative Rules Committee comprised of Lorrie Young, Russell Wood, Rich Whitaker, and Diane Brecht has been meeting with MHDS policy staff on drafting rules regarding Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs). These rules will be included in Chapter 24. Key areas that are being looked at include; designation, catchment area, defining and determining exceptional circumstances, eligibility criteria for target population, required core services, forms of organization and governance requirements, and specific standards for CMHCs.

Planning for Future Meetings

Lorrie Young asked if there were any items that members would like included on the agenda for future meetings. Commission members did not have any additional agenda topics for future meetings.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjourn

Diane Brecht motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Tim Perkins. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy DePhillips.